

STOP VIOLENCE NEWSLETTER

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WOMEN'S
LAW CENTER

nr. 1 (2015)

The quarterly newsletter presents the activities of the Women's Law Center in the field of preventing and counteracting acts of domestic violence and violence against women within the period of January-March 2015.

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Who are we?

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The Women's Law Center is a non-governmental organisation, created in 2009 by a group of women-lawyers from the Republic of Moldova, which advocates for recognition, respect and protection of women's rights as human rights and contributes to preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women in Moldova. Women's Law Center (hereinafter to be referred as WLC/Center) renders direct legal aid (legal counselling, representation and psychological assistance) to women victims of domestic violence and victims of gender based violence. The Center holds the Secretariat of the National Coalition „Life without domestic violence!”, which comprises 14 organisations, active in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women and children.

We are an organisation which promotes the principle of equal opportunities for women and men, and our main mission is to contribute to preventing and counteracting the phenomenon of domestic violence and violence against women and intervene in cases when these rights are violated. We perform this through counselling, legal aid and psychological assistance, awareness raising and education actions and public policies, developed in partnership with the public authorities and civil society.

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The assistance rendered by the Women's Law Center to the victims of domestic violence


1. Primary and qualified legal aid to the victims of domestic violence

Within the period of 2013 – 2014 circa 150 of women victims of domestic violence and other forms of violence became beneficiaries of assistance services rendered by the Center's team. In the first three months of 2015 (January – March) the Women's Law Center has been contacted by 30 women, subjected to various types of abuse by their spouses, former spouses, concubines and children.

The victims who were 26 – 59 years old, and the majority had minors. All women sustained they were subjected to physical, psychological and economic violence, and in 3 cases also to sexual violence.

All cases of violence took place in front of the children, in cases where victims had little children. The women learned about the activity of the Center from various sources, from police - 8 cases, from prosecutors - 5 cases, shelters/intervention centers - 2 cases, from the web-page of the WLC - 2 cas-

es, from mayor - 1 case, colleagues from the workplace - 8 cases, brochures/leaflets - 1, mass media - 2 cases.

Due to signature of partnership agreements with the police and training sessions with policemen on the issue of domestic violence, awareness raising on the accountability and broadcasting of the phenomenon of domestic violence, a significant increase of the number of issued protection orders has been noticed: during 2010 – **23 protection orders**, in 2012 – **408**, in 2013 – **404**, and in 2014 – **920** protection orders. The number of cases where the criminal procedure has been initiated also increased. If previously most cases were classified as misdemeanours, presently many of these actions are classified under the provisions of the article 201¹ from the Criminal Code of the Republic of Moldova: in 2010, against the perpetrators were initiated **63** criminal files, in 2012 – **789**, in 2013 – **1328**, and in 2014 – **2270**. 

2. Best practices and issuing of and applying for issuing of the protection order

Within this period, the Center succeeded to obtain, within a record timing (three hours) a protection order on behalf of a beneficiary, even if at the moment of submitting the application the victim was no longer in a wedlock and lived separately from the perpetrator. The man continued to stalk the woman and applied acts of physical violence, both in the building where she lived and on the street.

The perpetrator hired a defence attorney and filled an appellate procedure against the issued protection order, by stating that he no longer is a family member and divorced the victim, and thus shall no longer fall under the jurisdiction of the domestic violence provision. The Court of Appeal did not take into consideration the statements presented by the respondent, but prior-

itised the acts of continued violence applied against the beneficiary and facts, presented in the WLC application filed in the court of first instance.

Issuing of a protection order within a record term (of maximum 10 hours), from the moment of filing an application for issuing a protection order, already becomes a good practice of the judges, this being already

the second case of such response to an application filed by the Center. One of the victims, who applied for the assistance of the Center, has been issued a protection order within the term of 10 hours, in her case the judge has reacted as to an emergency issue. The woman, a mother of three minors, one being struck with a serious illness, addressed the Center, stating she was subjected to physical violence, beaten brutally also in the public areas by both her spouse and his friend. WLC provided legal aid and psychological assistance, referred the victims and her children to a shelter and obtained issuing of a protection order. ▣

3. Support services for women, victims of domestic violence

The team of the Women's Law Center has planned to perform a series of activities to support the women victims of domestic violence, which became the beneficiaries of the services provided by the Center in the past and also the current beneficiaries. The first meeting has been moderated by Mrs. Angela Stafii, personal development counsellor, who talked in front of the women's group about ways to overcome difficult emotional and psychological post-traumatic situations, how to



increase the level of self-esteem and no longer feel the accountability for the behaviour of other persons, how to love and respect oneself. It was a warm meeting of strong and beautiful women, who managed to discuss for the first

time in public how they feel, how they try to regain their self-trust and the trust in other people, how they've succeeded to overcome and continue to strive to overcome the fear for the unknown and for the shortcomings. The team of the Center rejoices over the peace and safety acquired by these women, that they've had the strength to go further and currently they serve as an example of dignity and courage for their children and shall continue to organise such meetings. ▣

Statistical data of the General Police Directorate on domestic violence for 2014

During 2014, 2270 domestic violence criminal offences have been committed (Art. 2011 Criminal Code), as compared to 1328 offences registered in the same period of 2013 (+70,93%), 30 rapes (Art. 171 CC), and 20 violent sexual acts (Art. 172 CC).

In the sphere of family relationships, based on the consequences and seriousness of crimes, 29 homicides, 3 attempts to suicide, 91 serious bodily injuries, of which

44 resulted in death of victims, 119 medium bodily injuries, 316 violent acts against several family members and 1766 minor bodily injuries have been committed. The analysis of gender-based crimes in family sphere revealed that, due to violent acts committed by the perpetrators within the family, 2088 women became victims, including 78 girls, and 285 male became victims, including 38 boys, thus 2244 perpetrators in this category

of offences were men and 130 women.

In 3000 cases of domestic violence, these have been qualified in compliance with the Article 274 of the Criminal Procedure Code, with 730 contravention procedures initiated based on the prosecutor's orders, and in other 2270 cases, based on the components of the criminal acts, the criminal procedure was initiated. ▣

Source: http://www.igp.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/raport_privind_violenta_in_familie_12_luni_2014.pdf



|| The National Coalition "Life without domestic violence!"

The Coalition "Life without violence!" is a joint platform for performing lobby and advocacy activities of the relevant NGO's, which are active in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women and children.

The members of the Coalition provide services for the prevention and combating of domestic violence, including to public agencies, which have planned to organize activities which aim to support and develop services at the community level, including programs for rehabilitation, assistance and protection, for the abused women and children,

and programs for perpetrators, to provide support for education initiatives and awareness raising campaigns for the population in the field of domestic violence and participation in the process of improvement of the legislative provisions, policies and standards in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence.

During the last quarter of 2015, the Women's Law Center, as the Secretariat of the National Coalition „Life without domestic violence!”, has organised three meetings of the National Coalition and within these meetings the Regulation on functioning has been approved and the leadership bodies have been elected.

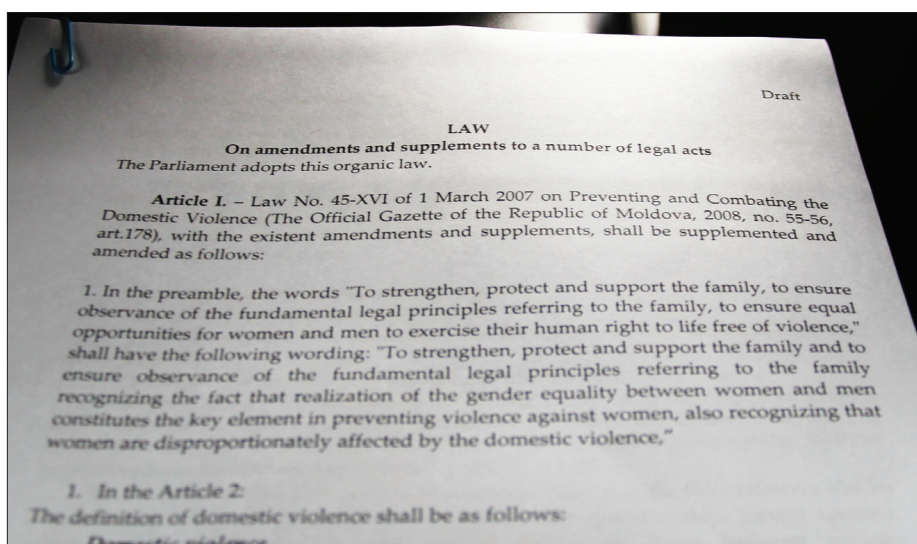
Additionally, the members of the Coalition involved into and supported a series of representative events of the civil society, such as support for the resolution to boycott the TV station Pro TV Chisinau, for broadcasting a discriminatory reportage regarding a woman, a teacher from Ungheni; participation in the Public Forum „Partnership for an inclusive and prosperous Moldova: Women do matter!” and promoting the Agenda for Gender Equality, participation in the amending of the legislation in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, participation at the public discussions regarding draft legislation and meetings with the public authorities. 

III ■ Collaboration with the public authorities and agencies, representatives of the civil society and other development partners

1. Draft Law on amending and supplementing of the legislative acts in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence

The Women's Law Center, in its quality of a member of the Group of Experts on amending the legislation in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, convened during several meetings with the members of the Group for finalising the draft law based on the opinions received from the public authorities and representatives of the civil society.

Also, the draft law has been discussed and received the advisory notes from the members of the National Coalition „Life without domestic violence!”, which presented its joint opinion regarding this draft law to the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family. The Draft law was elaborated in order to strengthen the mechanism for responding to the cases of violence and strengthening the guarantees for the victims' rights and implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women. Also, this draft law shall lead to harmonisation of the national legal framework in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence with the international



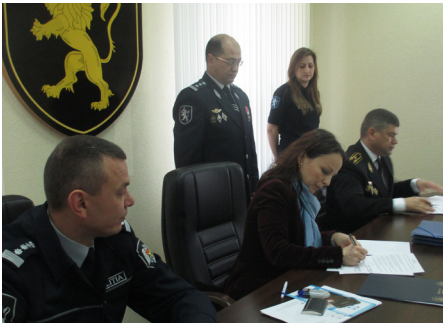
standards, with the Convention from Istanbul regarding preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, through the prospective of signing and ratification of this international treaty. To present, the afore-mentioned Convention has been signed by 37 members of the Council of Europe and ratified by 18 members. The Women's Law Center and other members of the National Coalition „Life without domestic violence!” has continuously promoted the message of urgent need for the adopting the Draft Law and signing of the Convention, the same message being included also into the Gender Equality Agenda. The pro-

posals for the Government Program in the field of promoting gender equality for the period of 2014-2018. The draft law, the advisory note and the opinions of the interested parties may be viewed on the web page of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family:

<http://particip.gov.md/proiectview.php?l=ro&idd=2067>.

The opinion of the members of the National Coalition „Life without domestic violence!” regarding the Draft law may be viewed on the web page of the Women's Law Center: <http://cdf.md/rom/re-sources>. ■

2. The development of partnerships and cooperation agreements with the public authorities and agencies and civil society' representatives in the field of preventing and combating of domestic violence and violence against women



Signing of the cooperation agreements with the public authorities

During the first quarter, the Women's Law Center has signed a cooperation agreement with the National Council for State Guaranteed Legal Aid, territorial Directorates of police of Rîșcani and Ciocana district, the General Department of Social Assistance.

The general objective of these agreements is cooperation of parties signatories in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, to ensure the right of the victims to obtain specialised, efficient and immediate protection.

Thus, the Women's Law Center plans to organise trainings for the representatives of responsible



entities (policemen, social workers and defence attorneys which provide state guaranteed legal aid) and shall also provide informative materials (training curricula, brochures, guides etc.). The policemen and social workers, on their turn, shall inform the victims of domestic violence about the activity of the Women's Law Center and shall refer the cases of domestic violence to the Center. The National Council for State Guaranteed Legal Aid, through its territorial offices, shall appoint as a priority specialised defence attorneys to provide state guaranteed legal aid to the victims of crimes, especially to those cooperating with the Women's Law Center, to render qualified legal aid to women victims of domestic violence or to women victims of other forms of violence against women.

Also, the Center and the Police Directorates of the Rîșcani and Ciocana districts shall organise joint actions for preventing and awareness raising campaigns in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence in the community.

Signature of the cooperation agreements reflects the development of good practices of partnership between the Women's Law Center and the public authorities, which have the functions to prevent and counteract the phenomenon of domestic violence. Based on similar agreements during the period of 2013- 2014, the Center's team has trained over 700 policemen regarding the implementation in practice of the provisions of the Law on preventing and combating domestic violence, and the Chairperson of the General Police Directorate, Mr. Gheorghe Cavcaliuc highly appreciated the partnership of the law enforcement bodies with the Women's Law Center and mentioned that the practice of the signature of partnership agreements shall be extended to comprise all the Police Inspectorates of the Chisinau municipality. 

3. Public lectures in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, organised in partnership with the State University of Pennsylvania, Police Academy "Ștefan cel Mare" and the University "Constantin Stere"

On 11 and 12 March 2015, the Women's Law Center, in partnership with the law professors of the State University of Pennsylvania, the Peace Corps from Moldova and the Standing Secretariat against Trafficking in Human Beings have organised two public lectures regarding domestic violence phe-

nomenon in the Republic Moldova and USA for the MA students of the Law Department of the University for Political, Economic and European Studies "Constantin Stere" and the future criminal investigation officers of the Academy "Ștefan cel Mare".

The participants discussed

about the common causes of domestic violence and comparative features of the legislation on preventing and combating domestic violence phenomenon in the USA and the Republic of Moldova. The lecturers presented the best practices for interacting with the law enforcement bodies, the judges,

the community and the non-governmental organisations in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, enforcement of protection measures for the victims, regarding the rights and obligations of all parties involved in preventing and combating domestic violence in some states from the USA. The public lectures were followed by a roundtable, in which the activities organised by the volunteers of the ATiP Moldova Program of the Peace Corps have been analysed, within the implemented research and training project regarding the population of 8 regions of the country (Telenești, Bălți, Drochia&Mihăileni, Ștefan-Vodă&Căușeni, Nisporeni, Comrat, Chișinău, Soroca, Rezeni), based on human rights prospective.



The volunteers of the Peace Corps and some representatives of the non-governmental local organisations

The volunteers of the Peace Corps and some representatives of the local non-governmental organisations showed their interest to establish partnership with the Women's Law Center, especially related to dissemina-

tion of the information regarding domestic violence in localities. According to their statements, there is shortage of information on the local level, which implies that women victims of violence and potential victims lack knowledge on how to exercise their rights and where they can address to get assistance in cases of abuse. ◻

4. The Public Forum “Partnership for an inclusive and prosperous Moldova: Women do matter!”

On 30 March 2015, the Women's Law Center, as the member of the National Coalition „Life without domestic violence!” participated in the Public Forum “Partnership for an inclusive and prosperous Moldova: Women do matter!”.

The Forum is a platform for communication and dialog between the representatives of the non-governmental organisations, active in the field of advancing the women's rights and the representatives of the parliamentary parties and UN agencies from the Republic of Moldova, for identification of the obstacles and the general situation of each group, and also of the necessary solutions. Thus, seven groups of women from various field of activity: women against domestic violence and violence against girls, elderly women, HIV positive/




affected women, women of Roma nationality, women with special abilities and business-women, have discussed with the representatives of 5 political parties about the existing obstacles and requested enforcement of the Commitments, which have been concluded at the Public Forum from 2014, still unaccomplished. The Group of „Women against domestic violence and violence against girls”, comprised of the members of the National Coalition „Life without violence!”, has reiterated its main requirements in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, and namely:

- [Speeding up the adopting of the Draft law on amending a number of legislative acts, in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence,](#)
- [Ratification of the Istanbul Convention from 2011,](#)
- [Enhancing the amount of public funding for extending the services and programs in the anti-violence area.](#)

The requirements of the Group have been supported at large by the leaders of political parties, who declared that they shall make efforts to speed up the ratification and signing of the Istanbul Convention. Also, the members of the Coalition were invited for a meeting with the Group of women-parliamentarians, comprised of women-deputies from all the political parties represented in the Parlia-

ment, in order to discuss key-issues in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence. Hitherto, the Group of „Women against domestic violence and violence against girls” has set as its goal to monitor the conclude commitments and actively intervene to encourage the accountability of political leaders.

We should mention that at the Public Forum there were also present women leaders from the UN agencies from the Republic of Moldova, which have committed publicly to support the initiatives of civil society, which have the goal of advancing the enforcement of women's rights, and the involvement of women into political and public spheres of life. 

5. The visit of the OAK Foundation to the Republic of Moldova

Members of the Coalition met with representatives of the OAK Foundation during their visit to Moldova in March 2015.

The OAK Foundation is a charitable organisation, founded by a family and which supports the activity of over 300 organisations active in the field of advancing women's rights, the children's rights and gender equality in 45 countries. The OAK Foundation provided and continues to provide support, including financially, to the programs regarding environmental protection, preventing and counteracting abuse against children, advancing women's rights and gender equality, etc.

In the Republic of Moldova, the OAK Foundation has initiated its activities since 2012, by identifying the organisations active in the field of advancing the women's rights. During this period of time, the OAK Foundation granted its support to the Women's Law Center and to the service providers in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence.



With the financial support of the OAK Foundation, the Women's Law Center has initiated, developed and strengthened the establishment of the National Coalition „Life without violence!” as a joint platform for the dialog and partnership of all actors involved, both non-governmental organisations and public institutions.

During the visit to the Republic of Moldova, the representatives of the OAK Foundation, Florence Tercier Holst-Roness, Director, Issues Affecting Women Program and Virginia Ruan, Communication Officer, paid visits to service providers from districts (maternal centers, day-centers for intervention, and the center for perpetrators) which received sub-grants and trainings, supported by the Foundation. Also, the repre-

sentatives participated at the meeting of the Public Forum and at the public debates regarding the draft law on amending a number of legislative acts in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, organised by the Inter-ministerial Coordinating Committee in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence.

At the joint evaluation meeting, the Chairperson of the WLC, Mrs. Angelina Zaporozan - Pîrgari presented the main achievements of the Coalition members during the period of 2012- 2014, and also mentioned the need for strengthening the capacities of the members and identification of the priorities for 2015. Ms. Florence Tercier Holst-Roness highlighted the importance of the coalition building movement in the Republic of Moldova and stressed on the importance of further developing the National Coalition „Life without Domestic Violence” and strengthening capacities of services providers working both with women-survivors and batterers. 

6. What is the opinion of men from the Republic of Moldova regarding the Gender equality, rights and obligations of women and men in family and society? The international survey on Men and Gender Equality in Moldova (IMAGES)

The Women's Law Center has organised the meeting of the Consultative Group, to present and adjust to the national context the concept of the International Survey regarding Men and Gender Equality in Moldova (IMAGES).

The Consultative Group comprises the representatives of the Parliament of Moldova, Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, Ministry of Interior, the international organisations, UN Women, OSCE, organisations of the associative sector, Women's Law Center, Promo-LEX Association, International Women's Rights Protection and Promotion Center „La Strada”, Information Center „GENDERDOC-M”, Center for Assistance and Protection of Victims and Potential Victims of Human Trafficking, Center for Prevention of the Abuse against Children, the Association against Violence „Casa Mărioarei”, Gender-Center. The Survey is performed by the Center for Investigations and Counselling „Sociopolis”, with the support of the OAK Foundation and is a part of the activities of the Women's Law Center and its partners in advancing the equal opportunities for women and men.

The Survey shall be performed by interviewing 1500 men and 500 women and within it a detailed and comprehensive questionnaire with the questions addressed to men from the Republic of Moldova shall be applied. The questions refer to the role and involvement of men into family life, including the involvement of fathers in rearing and education of children, the role of women in family and society, relationships between men and women, women's health and men's health and the quality of



life, sexual diversity, gender equality, domestic violence phenomenon, etc. The questionnaire shall explore the ideas of men regarding policies and changes necessary in the current policies and shall identify factors which may explain the behavioural patterns of men in family life and in intimate relationships, including the issues related to violence during childhood, gender equality in families, stress, migration, unemployment issues etc.

„The survey will allow us to evaluate the attitude and practices of men

and women from the Republic of Moldova regarding gender equality, with the objective to provide information on, develop and monitor the development of policies aimed towards enhancing gender equality by involvement of both men and women”, said the President of the Women's Law Center, Angelina Zaporozjan-Pîrgari during the meeting and welcomed the active involvement of the members of the Consultative Group.

The results of the Survey shall be publicly revealed in September 2015. □



IV Success stories

In the column „Success stories” shall be published the stories of the victims of domestic violence, to which the Women’s Law Center provided assistance, and which succeeded to break the circle of violence. All personal data are published following the agreement of the person mentioned in the article.

Mrs. Iulia Slănină, from Băcioi district of Chișinău municipality, remained on street with two children, after her violent spouse set fire to the house.

Iulia Slănină became the beneficiary of the Women’s Law Center since January 2014. Iulia conveyed that she got married to her former spouse circa 20 years ago, and from this marriage two children were born, a boy and a girl. Their marriage has always been a troublesome one, her spouse being physically violent from the very beginning. He was beating, insulting her and even shoot with a gun at her.

In the beginning, the family had a house in joint possession in the suburbs of the capital city, but Iulia’s husband succeeded to install the mortgage on this house, by counterfeiting his wife’s agreement in the documents presented to the bank, in order to obtain a large credit. Her spouse spent that credit, the bank sold the mortgaged real estate and returned only a small monetary compensation,

which remained after the extinction of the debt.

Iulia got the divorce and started to work hard in order to support her two small children. From the amount which remained from the bank, she managed to buy a small house in the Băcioi village. The former spouse also displayed the passion for gambling, acquired many debts and his creditors who were following him, also threatened his former wife.

Shortly after this, he left the country in order to obtain money and extinct the debts. He did not support the family in any way and Iulia felt all the hardships of raising her children alone. This petite and fragile woman revealed how she was frequently compelled to wander the hills in order to gather some wood and walnuts to feed her children. As the years passed, she slowly succeeded to repair her small living quarters and even gathered some money to install centralised heating.

One day, after 10 years of absence, Iulia got a knock at the door from her

former spouse, who „came home”. At the insistence of her relatives and following the promises of her former spouse, she decided to reconcile. During a few days, the former husband behaved nicely, but shortly he exploded and became violent. She called the police and on her behalf a protection order was issued, by which the former spouse was prohibited the access to the house and courtyard. In a winter morning, on 23 January 2014, after a brutal argument with his elder son, who was staying at home that day, and after running after his son with an axe in his hand and threatening to murder him, the former husband set fire to the house. With the house burnt, a seriously ill son and with the ruined hopes, Iulia decided to access the Women’s Law Center, which provided her free legal aid, psychological assistance and also financial support. Finally, following the intervention of the WLC, the perpetrator received a criminal punishment, being sentenced to four years of jail and currently serves a real-time sentence. ■

V ■ Preventing and combating domestic violence and violence against women worldwide

Thousands of women protested in Istanbul, Turkey and in other cities of Europe, after the homicide of 20-year old student, bestially raped and killed by a public bus driver. The girl tried to resist the perpetrator and after this was beaten by him and his accomplice to the death.

The President of Turkey described the violence against women as the “bleeding wound” of the country and called the authorities to take attitude towards cases of domestic violence. Although Turkish politicians constantly condemn the violence against women, the cases of violence officially registered in Turkey have increased in the last two years.

Based on a recent survey per-



formed by the European Network Women against Violence Europe-WAVE, in Europe, one woman out of three, is subjected to physical or psychological abused

before the age of 15. ■

Source: <http://www.smh.com.au/world/death-of-ozgecan-aslan-stokes-anger-over-violence-against-women-in-turkey-20150217-13gk9l.html>

Postponement of punishment for a woman who killed her abusive husband in China

A woman has been sentenced to death in China, after murdering her abusive husband and received a suspended sentence of two years in jail, which could become a sentence for life, with the possibility of being released before the term.

The suspending of the criminal punishment is a part of the Chinese authorities' efforts to adopt a different approach to cases of domestic violence, in which the victims of violence commit serious crimes against their perpetrators.

The Prosecutor in charge made a statement in the court of law of

Sichuan province from the central region of China, decreed to suspend the enforcement of the sentence of the 44-year old woman named Li Yan, who was sentenced to death for the murder of her husband, although all the evidence reveals that she was severely and repeatedly abused by her spouse during her lifetime. The Supreme Court of the country issued a decision to re-examine the case in June 2014.

William Nee, a researcher from Hong Kong, a member of the International Group for the Protection of Human rights Amnesty International, welcomed this decision as a positive development for the victims of

domestic violence, and also emphasised the issue of a recent execution of five women-activists for human rights from China.

“The postponing of the sentencing of Li Yan may become the turning point for all the future cases, in which domestic violence serves as an alleviating factor”, declared Nee in a statement. “Through her case, the highest court of China sent a clear message that the judges should not ignore the issue of domestic violence when examining the cases.” ■

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/woman-murdered-abusive-husband-reprieve-china-30546405>

Another country yet has ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention)

On 27 April 2015 Poland has ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention). By depositing the document for ratification at the Council of Europe in Strasbourg, Poland has become the 18-th member state which ratified Istanbul Convention.

The ratification of the Istanbul Convention is one of the constant requests to the Government, made by the Women's Law Center and the National Coalition "Life without domestic violence!", and one of the key-issues on the Agenda for Gender Equality: Proposals for the governance program in the field of promoting gender equality for the period of 2014-2018. Ratification of the Convention is conditioned by the necessity to amend the national legal framework to the international standards in this field, and in this context, the Women's Law Center, as the member of the Expert Group on amending the legislation in the field of preventing and combating domestic violence, takes part in the process of promoting the adoption of draft law on the amendments and supplements to the legislation.

The Istanbul Convention envisages the principles for the immediate actions required to terminate acts of domestic violence, rape or harassment. In conformity to the Convention, all these acts are considered crimes, and the authorities shall be accountable to prosecute these offences, to protect the victims and punish the perpetrators as soon

as possible (Article 5). The Convention forbids the mandatory use of alternative justice remedies (such as mediation) for the perpetrators of acts of domestic violence against women (Chapter 48). The cyclic and repetitive nature of these acts, and the risk of renewed violent acts which may be committed by the perpetrators, may not be minimized by any pecuniary or other compensations. According to the Convention, the States have the duty to guarantee the access to justice, protection and access to general and specialized support and recovery services to the victims of violence against women. The women victims of violent acts are in need of immediate protection, including by legal remedies, such as the protection order, and shall have access to free legal aid, counseling and therapy services, and accommodation in safe shelters. These specialized services shall be provided based on the standards, centered on victim's rights and interests, and provided by a personnel trained on the issue of gender-based violence, and, specifically, with the finan-

cial support of the authorities.

In compliance with the Recommendation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe No. 1817/2007 on allocating state funds for the services provided to the victims of violence against women, the minimum sum of 1 Euro/per inhabitant shall apply. Even in conditions of austerity, central authorities shall allocate funds for exceeding the rate of 0 Euro/ per inhabitant to support the women subjected to acts of violence.

Also, the Istanbul Convention recognizes the important role of the organizations advocating for women's rights, which have a major role in providing services for the victims, and the importance of the awareness raising campaigns for the population and for authorities on violence against women.

The list of countries which have signed and ratified the Istanbul Convention may be viewed here:

<http://conventions.coe.int/Treaty/Commun/ChercheSig.asp?NT=210&CM=1&DF=&CL=ENG>



COUNCIL
OF EUROPE

CONSEIL
DE L'EUROPE

VI. What do we aim to achieve in the following three months

- Provide primary and qualified legal aid and psychological assistance to the victims of domestic violence, in compliance with the mission of the Center;
- Organise training sessions for policemen, judges and prosecutors in the field of implementing the provisions of the Law on preventing and combating of domestic violence, in partnership with the National Institute of Justice, the Police Academy "Ștefan cel Mare" and Police Inspectorates of Rîșcani and Ciocana district,
- Monitoring the pilot-project in two districts of Chisinau regarding the response of police to cases of domestic violence and enforcement of protection orders,
- Elaboration of questionnaires/tools for risk monitoring/assessment of domestic violence cases,
- Development of the Guidelines for policemen, and training of policemen based on the application of this manual.



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Ministry of Labor, Social Protection and Family of the Republic of Moldova



Ministry of Health



Ministry of Internal Affairs, General Inspectorate of Police



National Legal Aid Council



General Directorate of Social Assistance